

A SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF THE BARBAROUS  
MURDER,

Committed on board the Brig,

EARL of SANDWICH,

BY

P. MAC KINLIE, G. GIDLEY,  
A. ZEKERMAN, AND R. ST. QUINTEN.

WITH A

PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

OF

RICHARD ST. QUINTEN.

Taken from his own Mouth in Newgate, Dublin,  
the Evening before his Execution.



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MURDER

OF

EARL OF SANDWICH

BY

WILLIAM G. CLIVE

ESQ.

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THE following Account was taken without any Design of its being made Public. But some Persons, who had seen it, supposing it to be the most circumstantial Narration of the Series of Incidents attending this barbarous affair, and thinking it might give Satisfaction to the Public; urged its Publication. St. Quinten himself expressed, in Effect, the same Desire.

As to what relates immediately to him, from the Time he was confined in Newgate, till his Execution; it is sufficient to observe, that the Facts here related of him, give all reasonable Ground to suppose, he died in the true Faith of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. He was, as to his natural Disposition, somewhat heavy, and slow of Apprehension, though a Man of ordinary Sense; which might account, in some measure, for his Want of that particular Spiritedness of Expression, in the good Confession he witnessed to the last, which has been observable in several like Monuments of the Divine Mercy; particularly in the late Edward Weir, whose Case is generally known in this City. A Century may not produce exactly such another as his: But Extraordinaries are not essential to genuine Conversions. "Repentance towards GOD, and Faith in our LORD JESUS CHRIST," are all the Scriptures make necessary. And these, as far as could be judged from Appearances, were found in Richard St. Quinten.

DUBLIN,  
March 6, 1786.



## A SHORT ACCOUNT, &amp;c.

THIS melancholy Scene, it appears, began first to be meditated upon at the Island of Teneriff. While they were there, Peter Mac Kinlie said one evening to the persons afterwards concerned, that they had much treasure on board, and that they might make their fortunes by going off with the Vessel. He spoke it with seeming indifference: so the matter went no farther then.

On their return home, just as they entered the Bay of Biscay, Andrew Zekerman, secretly acquainted Richard St. Quinten, that he, Peter Mac Kinlie, and George Gidley, intended to make away with the rest of the ship's company, and secure the treasure on board for their own use: and that they intended him as an accomplice. St. Quinten entirely disapproved of the design, and could not believe, as he declared, they were really in earnest. Zekerman charged him to say nothing about it.

The next morning, the three persons already named, spoke of the affair to St. Quinten, while they were at breakfast together; adding, that if he offered to disclose it, he himself should be the first Sufferer. They sought an opportunity that night to execute their bloody design; but missing it, resolved to defer it till they came into the Channel; supposing that then, the passengers, at least, would go on shore, and so render the perpetration of it more easy, and less bloody.

Beside the other considerations which prompted them on, one was, their having, unknown to the captain, made away with a considerable quantity of the wine on board: so that they feared, on coming to London, they should be transported.

During



During nine days, which was the time spent between the Bay of Biscay, and their arrival at Crook Haven, they continued stedfast in their bloody design. Though St. Quinten affirmed to the last, he did not believe they would ever actually execute it.

They spent six days at Crook Haven, in which time, Mac Kinlie, being one day in liquor, took one of the Custom-house-officers on board aside; and, after asking if he could keep a secret? disclosed to him the whole matter. The officer informed captain Cochran: But he, imputing it to a fit of drunkenness, and without any real foundation, or confiding too much in his own valour, took no notice of it.

On the third night after they had set sail from Crook Haven, being the 30th of November, 1765, at about the distance of nine leagues to the south-west of the Islands of Scilly, the bloody scene began, in the manner following:

Between the hours of ten and eleven, captain Cochran being then on the watch, together with Mac Kinlie, Gidley, and Zekerman, and walking on the quarter-deck, Mac Kinlie stepped from the main deck towards the compass, as though he would observe the ship's course; and, watching his opportunity, as captain Cochran turned his back towards him, seized him round the middle, and forced him on the main deck; where Gidley, being prepared, smote him with an iron bar on the head, which immediately killed him. Upon hearing the captain's out-cry, and the noise on deck, St. Quinten, being then dosing in the fore-castle, ran up, and seeing Mac Kinlie and Gidley laying hold of the dead body, assisted to throw it over-board.

The mate and his brother, Charles and James Pinchent, who were then under deck, hearing the noise,

noise, ran up. Gidley immediately fell on the mate with the iron bar, with which he had just murdered the Captain; but missing his blow, the bar fell over-board. He then called to St. Quinten for help, who, coming to his assistance, they threw him over-board.

Captain Glas, in the mean-time, looking up, and seeing what was doing, stepped back to the Cabin for his sword: which Mac Kinlie perceiving, hastened down after him: and concealing himself behind the ladder, on captain Glas's return, as he was half way up the stairs, took hold of him with the left arm, and with a knife in his hand, ript open his belly; the Captain at the same time saying, "O Peter! sure you will not serve me thus." Peter then called out for help: upon which, St. Quintin ran and took the sword out of the Captain's hand. George Gidley then coming up, took the sword from St. Quinten, and passed it several times through the Captain's body, who then fell back into Mac Kinlie's arms.

Gidley, in the mean time, hastened to dispatch the mate's brother, with captain Glas's sword: but finding it somewhat difficult, Mac Kinlie went to his assistance, who in the scuffle received a wound in his arm, through the young man's body.

By the time they had thrown him into the Sea, Mrs. Glas and her Daughter came on deck. She asked, in great consternation, If they had been run upon by another vessel? And whether captain Glas was dead? she had for answer that their captain had been out of his mind, and attempted to kill them all, and that they had flung him over-board. She shrieked; and said her husband was dead.

Mac Kinlie, who had just then taken the helm from Zeckerman, cried out to him, to throw her over-board;

over-board; and added, in a rage, "You have done nothing yet." Upon which, Zeckerman laid hold on her. Her Daughter that instant flew to her arms; and both perished in the Sea together, by the hands of Zekerman.

They then drew up the dead body of captain Glas upon the deck; and, after trimming the sails, stripped him of his watch, buckles, and every thing of value about him, and threw him over-board.

Having thus far proceeded in their most bloody design, they all, except St. Quinten, whom they left to steer the vessel, went under deck, to clean themselves from the blood with which they were distained, and dress the wounds, which another of them, besides Mc Kinlie, had received during the fray.

They then made for the Irish shore. When they had got within the distance of three leagues of it, they put out the boat; and having loaded her with 270 bags of dollars, and two or three pounds weight of gold dust, they knocked out the ballast-port of the ship, in order to sink her, and put off for land.

Captain Glas's Boy, on seeing them put off, and knowing the condition in which they left the ship, leaped into the sea, and swam after them. He got up to them, and laid hold on the gunnel of the boat. St. Quinten took hold of him, to pull him in, which he declared, he intended to do with the greatest willingness; upon which, the rest cried out to him, and swore, if he did, he himself should go over-board. St. Quinten then let go his hold. The Boy, finding there was no relief, took off his hat, which, till then, he kept on, lifted up both his hands to Heaven, and after uttering, "O Lord, have Mercy upon me!" instantly sunk, and was seen no more.

The



The other Boy, yet on board the vessel, put about the helm, and made towards the shore, which those in the boat perceiving, when they were about a mile and a half from land, turned back, to provide for sinking her more effectually. By the time they came well nigh up with her, the other Boy had been washed over-board, and the ship overfet.

And now, their design being completed, they thought only of securing and enjoying the reward of their villany. But the devil is only concerned to seduce his servants: their protection he leaves to themselves. He sets them on work; but their wages is only death. The justice of God pursued them, and would not suffer them to live. His divine Providence has been, in all ages, peculiarly conspicuous in the detection and punishment of Murderers. The Heathens themselves, by the light of nature, and from frequent observation, discovered an over-ruling Providence in this respect; as appears from that passage in the Acts, relative to St. Paul, after his having been shipwrecked, and escaping to the Island of Malta. "The barbarous people," says he, "shewed us no small kindness; for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a Viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous animal hang on his hand, they said among themselves, 'No doubt this man is a murderer, whom though he hath escaped the Sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live,' Acts xxviii.

These unhappy Men now made for the Highlands of Dungarvan.\* But to their surprize found

\* The Writer of this account, has some doubt concerning the exactness of this passage, St. Quinten's words were, "The Island

themselves at length near the light of Waterford. They went on shore about a mile from Duncannonfort, between which and the Light-house, they hid 251 bags of dollars among the Rocks. They then made towards Waterford, landed at Fisher's-Town, and buried six bags more of dollars. Here they hired horses, and rode on to Ross. They left Mc Kinlie at a public-house there, to take care of what treasure they had among them, requesting him to keep himself sober; the other three, in the mean time, went back for the six bags they had buried at Fisher's Town.

On their return, they found Mc Kinlie had, contrary to their directions, got himself in liquor, with a number of the towns-people about him, with some of whom he had changed dollars to the amount of 300l. for gold.

The next day, they bought three case of pistols, hired each a horse, with two guides, and rode off for Dublin; where, not long after, they were, by divine Providence, secured in Newgate.

Saturday, March the 1st. near three months after their committal, they were brought to trial, and received sentence of death, which was accordingly executed the Monday following. They were afterwards hung in chains.

Richard St. Quinten, from whom this account was taken, was second son to William and Mary St. Quinten, in Yorkshire. He was born in September, 1745. At eleven years old, his parents hired him, at his own desire, to serve in an Inn, at Kingston upon Hull, where he continued three years, much approved of both by his master and mistress.

He then resolved to learn a trade, returned to his father, and continued at his business of shoe-making of Dungarvan; but as there is no such Island, it is presumed he meant the Highlands, which are well known.

making, two years and a half. His thoughts began to rove, as he expressed it. He bound himself for three years to serve on board a ship belonging to Mr. William King, Merchant at Hull. From a certificate that the publisher of this account has seen which this gentleman sent to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, it appears, that he behaved well in his employ, was remarkably obedient to his parents; and not known to be chargeable with any crime other than the common frailties of humanity, in its present degenerate condition, untill this most barbarous affair in which he was concerned.

After he had been some time in Newgate, he desired to be visited by some of the people called Methodists. Their advice to, and prayers with him, seemed not to be without effect. He became deeply sensible of the horrid wickedness of his crime, and earnestly desired every assistance that might contribute to his finding mercy with God. Beside the daily visits which were made him on this solemn occasion, he had a letter of advice sent him for his constant instruction. There appeared still more marks of penitency upon him; which gave strong hope that, after all he had done, our gracious God would be merciful to him.

He was repeatedly informed, that, in case of true repentance, the mercies of our Lord are without bounds; that "though our sins be as scarlet;" never so deeply tinged with aggravated Guilt, "the blood of Christ" can make them white as snow; that "whosoever cometh to God, thro' Christ, he will in no wise cast out." That "he was made a sin offering for us, that we might be made the righteous people of God thro' him; that by grace we are saved thro' faith;" and, in a word, that all things are possible to him that rightly believeth.

As



As it appeared he had been too great a stranger to the Scriptures, he was the more astonished at these sayings, and began to conceive strong hopes, that seeing the mercy of God is free thro' Christ, who came into the world to save sinners, it might go well even with him. He therefore cried mightily to God, spent great part of the night in tears, and endeavoured to make the best use of his little time.

The night before he was brought to trial, he had been reading the tenth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, with, as he said, *a bleeding Heart*. As he read on, he perceived, of a sudden, lively hope and consolation spring up in his soul; and, in a kind of transport, said to those about him, "My sins are all forgiven!" He instantly determined to give the Court no trouble; but to confess his guilt before all men; believing, as he said, that to tell a deliberate lie would then endanger his salvation. He did so accordingly, and received sentence, as he told one, who afterwards visited him, with the utmost composure.

He was visited at his own desire, on Sunday evening, by one who had been with him before, who spent two hours with him in a separate room. He assured him he never was so happy in his whole life. He continued so all that night. The Morning he suffered, he was again visited by a friend, who found him employed in exhorting Zeckerman, the Dutchman, with such earnestness as made him inattentive to every thing beside, and pointing him out passages of Scripture to read. He was asked how he had spent the night? And put him in mind that his hour was now approaching. He said, he had had two or three hours sound sleep. He added, "I know the power of God is with me. I believe all my sins are pardoned. I shall be with God. I am ready to die, as I know

know it is just I should suffer."—He was asked at the gallows if he were afraid to die, and if death appeared terrible to him? He said, repeatedly, "No, no." The clergyman who attended at the execution, expressed his hope and belief that they would find favour with God. St. Quinten said, with a low voice, but so as to be heard by some who stood near, "I know it, I know it." He went off, witnessing a good confession.

## THE END.

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